

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter Clevenger, Reg. No. 66,386 on 3/31/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 83-88 have been cancelled.

Claims 51, 63, 72, and 89 have been amended as shown below:

51. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A node for use in a communications system that packs and fragments variable-length service data units (SDU) for mapping into variable length protocol data units (PDU), each PDU having a payload area, and a header area, each SDU being associated with a specified connection, the node comprising:

a communications processor configured to pack and fragment service data units associated with ~~the a~~ specified connection into a protocol data unit, including performing the following operations:

allocating bandwidth for the specified connection based, at least in part, on the priority of the connection,

establishing a length for the protocol data unit based on ~~the~~
bandwidth allocated to the specified connection in a current frame,

mapping a first service data unit to the payload area of the protocol data unit,

determining whether a second service data unit is larger than the remaining payload area of the protocol data unit,

if the second service data unit is not larger than the remaining payload area of the protocol data unit, then mapping the second service data unit to the remaining payload area of the protocol data unit, and

if the second service data unit is larger than the remaining payload area of the protocol data unit, then fragmenting the second service data unit into at least two fragments and mapping the first fragment to the payload area of the protocol data unit, wherein:

the header area of the protocol data unit includes a length field specifying the length of the protocol data unit, and

the payload area of the protocol data unit includes a packing subheader for each service data unit and each service data unit fragment packed in the payload area, the packing subheader specifying the length of a respective service data unit or a respective fragment.

63. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A base station for use in a communications system, that packs and fragments variable-length service data units (SDU) for mapping into variable length protocol data units (PDU), each PDU having a payload area, a

header area, and being associated with a specified connection, the base station comprising:

a communications processor configured to pack and fragment service data units associated with the specified connection into a protocol data unit including performing the following operations:

establishing a length for the protocol data unit based on bandwidth allocated to the specified connection in a current frame, wherein the bandwidth allocated to the specified connection is established based on one or more communication parameters, including the priority of the specified connection,

mapping a first service data unit to the payload area of the protocol data unit,

determining whether a second service data unit is larger than the remaining payload area of the protocol data unit,

if the second service data unit is not larger than the remaining payload area of the protocol data unit, then mapping the second service data unit to the remaining payload area of the protocol data unit, and

if the second service data unit is larger than the remaining payload area of the protocol data unit, then fragmenting the second service data unit into at least two fragments and mapping the first fragment to the payload area of the protocol data unit, wherein:

the header area of the protocol data unit includes a length field specifying the length of the PDU, and

the payload area of the protocol data unit includes a packing subheader for each service data unit packed in the payload area, the packing subheader specifying the length of a respective service data unit.

72. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The base station of claim 63 ~~74~~, wherein the one or more communication parameters further comprises the quality of service (QoS) of the specified connection ~~encryption control field comprises at least two bits.~~

83. – 88. (CANCELLED)

89. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for use in a communications system that maps variable length service data units (SDU) associated with a specified connection according to a plurality of service level for the data carried by the SDUs, into a protocol data unit (PDU) having a variable-length payload area and a header area, the method comprising:

establishing a length ~~for the a~~ protocol data unit based on bandwidth currently allocated to the connection in a current frame, wherein the bandwidth allocated to the connection is established based, at least in part, on the priority associated with the specified connection ~~on one or more communication parameters;~~

receiving a first service data unit and a second service data unit; fragmenting the second service data unit into at least two fragments;

packing the first service data unit and a corresponding packing subheader into the payload area of the protocol data unit; and

packing a first fragment of the second service data unit and a corresponding packing subheader into a remaining portion of the payload area of the protocol data unit,

wherein each packing subheader comprises a length field specifying the length of the corresponding service data unit and a fragmentation control field indicating whether the corresponding service data unit is a first fragment, a continuing fragment, a last fragment, or an unfragmented service data unit.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 51-75, 82, and 89-98 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GREGORY B. SEFCHECK whose telephone number is (571)272-3098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chirag Shah can be reached on 571-272-3144. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory B Sefcheck/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2477
4-1-2011